

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) An internet enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, said system having an internet web portal through which a third party authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services for use by another may access, for bi-directional communication and functional interaction, a rental vehicle services provider using a digital data entry device connected to the internet, a rental vehicle software program resident on a computer system remote from said third party authorized purchaser, said rental vehicle software program being configured to automatically respond to a series of commands from said third party authorized purchaser and communicate a plurality of rental vehicle reservations through said rental vehicle software program to a second software program for fulfillment at a specific geographically remote rental vehicle location at which vehicles for rent are situated, each of said reservations including an identification of an associated repair facility where a vehicle of said another another's vehicle is undergoing repairs and wherein said reservations have a plurality of associated repair facilities, said rental vehicle software program collecting data relating to said plurality of reservations into a database accessible by said third party authorized purchaser and being further configured for managing of said reservations by said third party authorized purchaser including automatically generating repair facility call back lists authorizing said reservations, processing said reservations, and billing said reservations to said third party authorized purchaser so that said plurality of rental vehicle reservations may be automatically processed thereby, the repair facility call back lists being configured to allow said third party authorized purchaser to sort said reservations that are open by at least the associated repair facilities wherein said list groups together the open reservations by one or more associated repair facilities.

2. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 wherein said third party authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

organization having a plurality of authorized purchasers, said plurality of authorized purchasers each being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the computer system and rental vehicle software program resident therein.

3. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 2 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said third party authorized purchaser and communicated to said third party authorized purchaser for authorization.

4. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 3 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

5. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

6. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 4 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said rental vehicle software program including reports summarizing rental vehicle reservation activity conducted any one of said authorized purchasers.

7. CANCELED

8. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim ~~6~~ 7 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said third party authorized purchaser for further processing.

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

9. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 8 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to communicate messages between each of said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said rental vehicle software program.

10. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 9 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to any one of said plurality of service providers.

11. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 10 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

12. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 1 further comprising a second computer system, said second computer system having the second computer software program resident thereon, said second computer software program being configured to process rental vehicle transactions at a plurality of geographically diverse branch facilities each of which has a plurality of vehicles for rental, said second computer system being linked to said first computer system whereat said rental vehicle software program is resident.

13. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 12 wherein each of said first and second computer systems comprises a network having a main frame computer, said main frame computers being linked to each other, and wherein said second computer system further comprises a WAN.

14. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 13 wherein said third party authorized purchaser comprises a business organization, said business organization having a plurality of individual authorized purchasers, said plurality of individual authorized purchasers being enabled to access said internet web portal from any location offering internet web access, and further comprising a second business organization, said second business organization having the second computer system resident therein, and

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein said second business organization includes the plurality of geographically diverse rental vehicle locations.

15. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 14 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit a rental vehicle reservation to be initiated remote from said third party authorized purchaser and communicated to said third party authorized purchaser for authorization.

16. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 15 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation through said internet web portal.

17. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchasers to modify said rental vehicle reservation including extending a time period for which said reservation authorizes use of a rental vehicle.

18. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 16 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to permit said authorized purchaser to generate reports relating to rental vehicle reservation activity conducted through said rental vehicle software program.

19. CANCELED

20. (currently amended) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim ~~18~~ 19 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to automatically communicate billing information to said authorized purchaser for further processing.

21. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 20 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured to communicate messages between said authorized purchaser and any others having access to said rental vehicle software program.

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

22. (previously presented) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 21 wherein said rental vehicle software program is configured for allowing access through its internet web portal to a plurality of service providers, and for limiting the functionality available to any one of said plurality of service providers.

23. (original) The rental vehicle transaction system of claim 22 wherein said plurality of service providers include vehicle repair facilities.

24-50. CANCELED

51. (withdrawn) An Internet-enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, the system comprising:

a first computer network operated by a rental vehicle service provider, the first computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, and a first computer network mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first computer network mainframe being configured to execute a fulfillment software program, the fulfillment software program being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations; and

a second computer network comprising a plurality of authorized business partner computers, a second computer network mainframe, and a web portal;

wherein the second computer network mainframe is in bidirectional communication with the first computer network, the second computer network mainframe being configured to execute a rental vehicle software program, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from the authorized business partner computers;

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the web portal is in bidirectional communication with the second computer network mainframe and is further in bidirectional communication with the authorized business partner computers via an Internet connection therebetween, the web portal being configured to provide a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized business partner computers, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized business partner computer with the rental vehicle software program;

wherein the authorized business partner computers are configured to access the rental vehicle software program via the Internet connection to the web portal's GUIs, thereby providing users of the authorized business partner computers with the ability to provide the series of commands to the rental vehicle software program for creating and managing rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties; and

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate, in response to input from a user of an authorized business partner computer, a report for display on the user's authorized business partner computer via at least one web portal GUI, the report being configured to detail a plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the user input being received by the rental vehicle software program through at least one web portal GUI, the report being sortable by a criteria specified by the authorized business partner computer user through at least one web portal GUI.

52. (currently amended) An Internet-enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, the system comprising:

a first computer network operated by a rental vehicle service provider, the first computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, and a first computer network mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first computer network mainframe being configured to execute a fulfillment software program, the fulfillment software program being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations; and

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

a second computer network comprising a plurality of authorized business partner computers, a second computer network mainframe, and a web portal;

wherein the second computer network mainframe is in bidirectional communication with the first computer network, the second computer network mainframe being configured to execute a rental vehicle software program, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from the authorized business partner computers;

wherein the web portal is in bidirectional communication with the second computer network mainframe and is further in bidirectional communication with the authorized business partner computers via an Internet connection therebetween, the web portal being configured to provide a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized business partner computers, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized business partner computer with the rental vehicle software program;

wherein the authorized business partner computers are configured to access the rental vehicle software program via the Internet connection to the web portal's GUIs, thereby providing users of the authorized business partner computers with the ability to provide the series of commands to the rental vehicle software program for creating and managing rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties;

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate, in response to input from a user of an authorized business partner computer, a report for display on the user's authorized business partner computer via at least one web portal GUI, the report being configured to detail a plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the user input being received by the rental vehicle software program through at least one web portal GUI, the report being sortable by a criteria specified by the authorized business partner computer user through at least one web portal GUI;

~~The system of claim 51~~ wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations correspond to open rental vehicle reservations for third parties whose vehicles are undergoing repairs at a repair facility;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, data identifying the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs; and

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including the data identifying the repair facility corresponding to the open rental vehicle reservations, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by repair facility" criteria.

53. (withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations have a stored number of authorized days therefor;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, the authorized number of days for that reservation; and

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including the authorized number of days for the open rental vehicle reservations, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by authorized number of days" criteria.

54. (withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations have a stored number of authorized days therefor;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, the authorized number of days for that reservation; and

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including a number of days behind for open rental vehicle reservations that have been open for more than the authorized number of days, the number of days behind being a difference between the number of authorized days for an open rental vehicle reservation and a number of days that that rental vehicle reservation has been open, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by days behind" criteria.

55. (withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein the rental vehicle reservations comprise insurance replacement rental vehicle reservations.

56. (currently amended) An Internet-enabled automatic rental vehicle transaction system, the system comprising:



Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

a first computer network operated by a rental vehicle service provider, the first computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, and a first computer network mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first computer network mainframe being configured to execute a fulfillment software program, the fulfillment software program being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations; and

a second computer network comprising a plurality of authorized business partner computers, a second computer network mainframe, and a web portal;

wherein the second computer network mainframe is in bidirectional communication with the first computer network, the second computer network mainframe being configured to execute a rental vehicle software program, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from the authorized business partner computers;

wherein the web portal is in bidirectional communication with the second computer network mainframe and is further in bidirectional communication with the authorized business partner computers via an Internet connection therebetween, the web portal being configured to provide a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized business partner computers, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized business partner computer with the rental vehicle software program;

wherein the authorized business partner computers are configured to access the rental vehicle software program via the Internet connection to the web portal's GUIs, thereby providing users of the authorized business partner computers with the ability to provide the series of commands to the rental vehicle software program for creating and managing rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties;

wherein a plurality of the rental vehicle reservations correspond to rental vehicle reservations for third parties whose vehicles are undergoing repairs at a repair facility;

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, data identifying the repair facility where the third party's vehicle is undergoing repairs, and

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate a list for display on the user's authorized business partner computer via at least one web portal GUI, the list grouping a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations by their corresponding stored repair facility data such that open rental vehicle reservations having a common corresponding stored repair facility are commonly-grouped.

57. (previously presented) The system of claim 56 wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to generate the list in response to input from a user of an authorized business partner computer, the input being received by the rental vehicle software program through at least one web portal GUI, and the input including a request that the list group the plurality of open rental vehicle reservations by repair facility.

58. (previously presented) The system of claim 57 wherein the list includes a telephone number for each repair facility that is included thereon.

59. (previously presented) The system of claim 58 wherein the open rental vehicle reservations on the list are user-selectable to cause the web portal to display at least one GUI on the user's authorized business partner computer that is configured to receive user action on the user-selected open rental vehicle reservation, the user action to be communicated to the fulfillment software for processing thereof and storage in the database, the user action including a rental vehicle reservation extension.

60. (previously presented) A method for conducting a plurality of rental vehicle transactions between a rental vehicle service provider and a plurality of authorized business partners, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider;

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

providing a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored;

storing repair facility data in the database for rental vehicle reservations to identify a plurality of repair facilities at which renters' vehicles are undergoing repairs;

providing a first mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first mainframe having fulfillment software resident thereon, the fulfillment software being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations;

providing a second mainframe, wherein the second mainframe is in bidirectional communication with the first computer network, the second mainframe having a rental vehicle software program resident thereon, the rental vehicle software program being configured to, upon execution, access the database to manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from a plurality of authorized business partner computers;

providing a web portal, wherein the web portal is in bidirectional communication with the second mainframe and is further in bidirectional communication with the authorized business partner computers via an Internet connection therebetween, the web portal being configured to provide a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized business partner computers, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized business partner computer with the rental vehicle software program resident on the second mainframe such that the user can provide the series of commands for managing rental vehicle reservations;

receiving a command via at least one of the web portal GUIs from a user's authorized business partner computer;

communicating the received command to the rental software program;

executing the rental vehicle software program in response to the communicated command to thereby manage a rental vehicle reservation; and

responsive to the executing step, displaying a web portal GUI on the authorized business partner computer, wherein the displayed web portal GUI includes a repair facility callback list for a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations.

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 further comprising:  
displaying the web portal repair facility callback list GUI on the authorized business partner computer in response to a command received from the user of the authorized business partner computer, the command comprising a request to display a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations that are sorted by repair facility.
62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61 wherein the repair facility callback list is configured to display a telephone number for each repair facility.
63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising:  
receiving a command from the user's authorized business partner computer via the web portal repair facility callback list GUI, the command corresponding to a selection of an open rental vehicle reservation that is displayed on the repair facility callback list;  
responsive to the command received via the web portal repair facility callback list GUI, displaying, on the authorized business partner computer, a web portal GUI that is configured to receive a user command regarding an action to be taken on the selected open rental vehicle reservation, the user action comprising an extension of the selected open rental vehicle reservation.
64. (previously presented) The method of claim 62 further comprising:  
displaying a web portal GUI on the authorized business partner computer from which the user can provide a command for the rental vehicle software program to generate a report on a plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the report comprising a plurality of fields that detail the plurality of rental vehicle reservations, the command including a command to sort the rental vehicle reservations that are displayed in the report by a user-specified criteria; and  
responsive to the report generating command, displaying the report on the user's authorized business partner computer via a web portal GUI.
65. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising:  
storing repair facility data in the database for rental vehicle reservations for which a renter's vehicle is undergoing repairs;

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the report includes a field for identifying the repair facility corresponding to the plurality of rental vehicle reservations listed therein, and wherein the report generating command includes a "sort by repair facility" command.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising:  
storing in the database a number of authorized days for a plurality of rental vehicle reservations; and

wherein the report includes a field for identifying the authorized number of days stored for the plurality of rental vehicle reservations listed therein, and wherein the report generating command includes a "sort by authorized number of days" command.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 64 further comprising:  
storing in the database a number of authorized days for a plurality of rental vehicle reservations; and

wherein the report includes a field for identifying a number of days behind for rental vehicle reservations that have been open for more than the authorized number of days, the number of days behind being a difference between the number of authorized days for a rental vehicle reservation and a number of days that that rental vehicle reservation has been open, and wherein the report generating command includes a "sort by days behind" command.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the plurality of branch office computers, the database, the first mainframe, and the second mainframe are all maintained and operated by the rental vehicle service provider.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 68 wherein the web portal is maintained and operated by the rental vehicle service provider.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the web portal is maintained and operated by the rental vehicle service provider.

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the rental vehicle software program comprises a legacy rental vehicle software program.

72. (withdrawn) A computer-readable medium for providing an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services with Internet portal access to an internal computer network of the rental vehicle service provider, the internal rental vehicle service provider computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, and a first mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first mainframe having fulfillment software resident thereon, the fulfillment software being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a rental vehicle software program comprising a plurality of instructions executable by a second mainframe, the second mainframe being in bidirectional communication with the first mainframe, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from an authorized purchaser computer; and

a plurality of instructions executable by a processor for interfacing the authorized purchaser computer with the rental vehicle software program that is resident on the second mainframe by generating a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized purchaser computer through an Internet connection with the authorized purchaser computer, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized purchaser computer with the rental vehicle software program such that the user can provide the series of commands for creating and managing rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties; and

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate, in response to a command sent from the authorized purchaser computer, a report for display on the authorized purchaser computer via at least one GUI, the report being configured to detail a plurality of rental vehicle reservations; and

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the interfacing instructions comprise a plurality of instructions executable by a processor for generating and displaying on the authorized purchaser computer a GUI through which the user of the authorized purchaser computer can submit a command to generate the report and sort the rental vehicle reservation data in the report by a user-specified sorting criteria.

73. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium for providing an authorized purchaser of rental vehicle services with Internet portal access to an internal computer network of the rental vehicle service provider, the internal rental vehicle service provider computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, and a first mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first mainframe having fulfillment software resident thereon, the fulfillment software being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a rental vehicle software program comprising a plurality of instructions executable by a second mainframe, the second mainframe being in bidirectional communication with the first mainframe, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from an authorized purchaser computer; and

a plurality of instructions executable by a processor for interfacing the authorized purchaser computer with the rental vehicle software program that is resident on the second mainframe by generating a plurality of graphical user interfaces (GUIs) for display on the authorized purchaser computer through an Internet connection with the authorized purchaser computer, the GUIs being configured to interface a user of an authorized purchaser computer with the rental vehicle software program such that the user can provide the series of commands for creating and managing rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties; and

Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate, in response to a command sent from the authorized purchaser computer, a report for display on the authorized purchaser computer via at least one GUI, the report being configured to detail a plurality of rental vehicle reservations;

wherein the interfacing instructions comprise a plurality of instructions executable by a processor for generating and displaying on the authorized purchaser computer a GUI through which the user of the authorized purchaser computer can submit a command to generate the report and sort the rental vehicle reservation data in the report by a user-specified sorting criteria;

~~The computer-readable medium of claim 72~~ wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations correspond to open rental vehicle reservations for third parties whose vehicles are undergoing repairs at a repair facility;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, data identifying the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs; ~~and~~

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including the data identifying the repair facility corresponding to the open rental vehicle reservations, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by repair facility" criteria.

74. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 73 wherein a plurality of the rental vehicle reservations correspond to rental vehicle reservations for third parties whose vehicles are undergoing repairs at a repair facility;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, data identifying the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs;

wherein the rental vehicle software program is further configured to access the database to generate a list for display on the user's authorized purchaser computer, the list grouping a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations by their corresponding stored repair facility data such that open rental vehicle reservations having a common corresponding stored repair facility are commonly-grouped; and



Application No. 09/641,820  
Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

wherein the interfacing instructions further comprise a plurality of instructions executable by a processor for generating and displaying on the authorized purchaser computer a GUI that includes the list generated by the rental vehicle software program.

75. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 74 wherein the list includes a telephone number for each repair facility that is included thereon.

76. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 73 wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations have a stored number of authorized days therefor;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, the authorized number of days for that reservation; and

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including the authorized number of days for the open rental vehicle reservations, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by authorized number of days" criteria.

77. (previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 73 wherein a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations have a stored number of authorized days therefor;

wherein the database is configured to store, as part of the data corresponding to a rental vehicle reservation, the authorized number of days for that reservation; and

wherein the report displays data about a plurality of open rental vehicle reservations, the displayed data including a number of days behind for open rental vehicle reservations that have been open for more than the authorized number of days, the number of days behind being a difference between the number of authorized days for an open rental vehicle reservation and a number of days that that rental vehicle reservation has been open, and

wherein the user-specified sorting criteria comprises a "by days behind" criteria.

78. (previously presented) An automatic rental vehicle transaction system, the system comprising:

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

a first computer network operated by a rental vehicle service provider, the first computer network comprising a plurality of branch office computers located in a plurality of geographically remote locations at which a plurality of rental vehicles are available for rent from the rental vehicle service provider, a database in which reservation data regarding the rental vehicles available for rent at the plurality of remote locations is stored, at least a portion of the reservation data corresponding to rental vehicle reservations for third parties whose vehicles are undergoing repairs at a repair facility, the stored reservation data including data identifying the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs, and a first computer network mainframe in bidirectional communication with the database and the branch office computers, the first computer network mainframe having fulfillment software resident thereon, the fulfillment software being configured to process and store rental vehicle reservation data in the database for access by the branch office computers when the branch office computers fulfill rental vehicle reservations; and

a second computer network comprising a plurality of authorized business partner computers and a second computer network mainframe;

wherein the second computer network mainframe is in bidirectional communication with the first computer network, the second computer network mainframe having a rental vehicle software program resident thereon, the rental vehicle software program being configured to access the database to create and manage rental vehicle reservations in response to a series of commands received from the authorized business partner computers;

wherein the authorized business partner computers are configured to access the rental vehicle software program via an electronic connection, thereby providing users of the authorized business partner computers with the ability to create and manage rental vehicle reservations on behalf of third parties, including the ability to generate a report for display on the authorized business partner computers the report comprising details about the plurality of rental vehicle reservations including sorted data therefor that identifies at least one selected from the group consisting of (1) the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs, (2) the authorized number of days for the plurality of rental vehicle reservations, and (3) the number of days behind for rental vehicle reservations that have been open for more than the authorized number of days, the number of days behind being calculated

Application No. 09/641,820

Attorney Docket No. 1017-5616 (51017-5616)

as a difference between the number of authorized days for an open rental vehicle reservation and a number of days that that rental vehicle reservation has been open.

79. (previously presented) The system of claim 78 wherein the report comprises details about the plurality of rental vehicle reservations including sorted data therefor that identifies the repair facilities where the third parties' vehicles are undergoing repairs.

80. (previously presented) The system of claim 78 wherein the report comprises details about the plurality of rental vehicle reservations including sorted data therefor that identifies the authorized number of days for the plurality of rental vehicle reservations.

81. (previously presented) The system of claim 78 wherein the report comprises details about the plurality of rental vehicle reservations including sorted data therefor that identifies the number of days behind for rental vehicle reservations that have been open for more than the authorized number of days, the number of days behind being calculated as a difference between the number of authorized days for an open rental vehicle reservation and a number of days that that rental vehicle reservation has been open.

82. (previously presented) The system of claim 78 wherein the rental vehicle reservations included in the report are limited to open rental vehicle reservations.